

AUG 17 1966

STATINTL

## Double Standard . . . By Roscoe Drummond

### Dodd and Powell Cases Contrasted

TAKE THE TWO cases of Rep. Adam Clayton Powell of New York and Sen. Thomas J. Dodd of Connecticut.

Here is a vivid and inexplicable example of how a double standard of moral judgment manifests itself in public and political life.



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Here we have one member of Congress—Rep. Powell—who is a convicted law-violator, guilty of slander, guilty of evading the sentence of the court for nearly two years, and guilty of contempt of court.

But there is virtually no public nor political condemnation of this man for his many offenses—for his law violation, for his spread of disrespect for the courts, for the harm he did to the elderly woman he slandered.

He is thus far unpunished by law and unpunished by public or congressional opinion. He seems to be held virtually blameless by his political peers.

AND, IN CONTRAST, there is the other member of Congress—Sen. Dodd. He

has been accused of no violation of law and he is convicted of no crime. He is charged with being too friendly with a lobbyist for whom he did some personal favors outside the Senate. He is charged with improprieties in handling funds raised at testimonial dinners.

In Sen. Dodd's case, though the charges are unproved and he has not been convicted by any kind of court, there has been wide condemnation and he has suffered severely at the hands of public and congressional opinion before the issues have been adjudged.

This is what I cite as a double standard of moral judgment. I can't explain it, and if readers have any good explanations I'd be interested to have them.

SEN. DODD has appeared day after day before a jury of his peers, the Senate Eth-

ics Committee, which is investigating the allegations of unethical acts which have been brought against him.

But on Sen. Dodd it seems as though the verdict—and a very condemnatory one—had already been rendered by public and political opinion. There is head-shaking all over Capitol Hill. He is being dismissed as a "lame duck" whose political career is at its end. The wake has begun.

But there is no headshaking, no wake in progress, for Rep. Powell, suggesting that he has been hurt or harried by offenses which go beyond doubtful ethics. He has been tried for slander, convicted, sentenced—so far unsuccessfully—and he goes gaily on.

If Dodd's offenses justify a Senate investigation, Powell's offenses cry out for a House investigation. But there isn't a stir in that direction.

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